

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Hrebejk et al.
SERIAL NO.: (not yet assigned)
FILING DATE: March 27, 2001
TITLE: GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE FOR DETERMINING
DISPLAY ELEMENT ATTRIBUTE VALUES
EXAMINER: [not yet assigned]
ART UNIT: [not yet assigned]

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Date of Deposit: March 27, 2001

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Diane Morse

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Title:

Please amend the title to read --GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE FOR
DETERMINING DISPLAY ELEMENT ATTRIBUTE VALUES--.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2-73 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 74-89 as follows.

74. (NEW) A graphical user interface for use on a computer system, the graphical user interface comprising:

a graphic object identifying a display element, said graphic object being user selectable, said display element including a first view, said first view including at least one elementary view, each display element having one or more attributes, each attribute having an attribute value, each elementary view capable of determining a display element from a represented object of said display element;

a view determiner, responsive to user selection of said graphic object, to determine said first view for said display element; and

a value ascertainment to ascertain at least one display element attribute value for said display element based upon said first view.

75. (NEW) The interface of claim 74 wherein said view determiner is further configured to indicate said first view is the view defined for said display element when a view is defined for said display element; and

indicate said first view is the view defined for a parent of said display element when a view is not defined for said display element.

76. (NEW) The interface of claim 74 wherein said view ascertainment is further configured to ascertain an attribute value for said display element using an elementary view when said first view is an elementary view; and

ascertain an attribute value for said display element using a composite view when said first view is a composite view.

77. (NEW) The interface of claim 74 wherein said view ascertainment is further configured to receive a request for a display element attribute value using an elementary view; return an indication that no values are defined when said elementary view is incompatible with said represented object; return an indication that no values are defined when said attribute value is undefined for said represented object; and return at least one attribute value when at least one value for said attribute is defined for said represented object.

78. (NEW) The interface of claim 77 wherein said view ascertainment is further configured to return an attribute value when said attribute is single-valued.

79. (NEW) The interface of claim 77 wherein said view ascertainment is further configured to return a plurality of attribute values when said attribute is multi-valued.

80. (NEW) The interface of claim 76 wherein said value ascertainment is further configured to receive a request for a display element attribute value using a composite view; search each view contained by said composite view for a value for said attribute and return said value when said attribute is single-valued; collect all values for said attribute for each view contained by said composite view when said attribute is multi-valued;

merge said values; and

return said merged values.

81. (NEW) The interface of claim 74, further comprising a view changer to change said first view for at least one display element to a second view.

82. (NEW) The interface of claim 81 wherein said view changer is further configured to add an elementary view to said view.

83. (NEW) The interface of claim 81 wherein said view changer is further configured to remove an elementary view from said view.

84. (NEW) The interface of claim 76 wherein

said first view comprises at least one containment relationship between the represented object

associated with said display element and the represented objects associated with said at

least one other display element; and

said second view comprises at least one inheritance relationship between the represented

object associated with said display element and the represented objects associated with

said at least one other display element.

85. (NEW) The interface of claim 74 wherein said display interface is further configured to display said represented object values for said composite view in a tree structure.

86. (NEW) The interface of claim 74 wherein

said represented object comprises a program unit; and

said program is written in a language that supports inheritance relationships between represented objects.

87. (NEW) The interface of claim 86 wherein said program is written in the Java™ language.

88. (NEW) The interface of claim 86 wherein said program is written in the C++ language.

89. (NEW) The interface of claim 74 wherein said represented object is a file that is part of a file system.

REMARKS

Claims 1-73 have been canceled without prejudice.

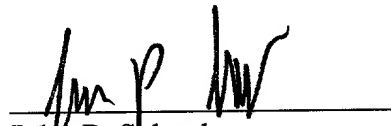
Claims 74-89 have been added because they particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention.

Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. Schaub', is written over a horizontal line.

John P. Schaub
Reg. No. 42,125

Dated: March 27, 2001

THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP
P.O. Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640
(408) 292-5800